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**[001]** This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/323,202~~ <sup>now U.S. Patent No. 6,234,677</sup> filed June 1, 1999, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application 09 / 199,287 filed November 25, 1998, <sup>now U.S. Patent No. 6,238,091</sup>

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## 10 Background of the Invention

**[0003]** In recent times soft sided insulated containers have become popular for carrying either articles that may best be served cool, such as beverages or salads, or warm, such as appetizers, hot dogs, and so on. Such containers are frequently used to carry liquids, whether hot liquids, such as soup containers, coffee or tea, or cold liquids such as beer pop, juices and milk. The containers are typically made in a generally cube like shape, whether of sides of equal length or not, having a base, four upstanding walls, and a top. The top is generally a lid which opens to permit articles to be placed in, or retrieved from, the container.

20 **[004]** By the nature of their use, it is advantageous for the containers to be water tight. That is, whether to hold melted run-off from ice cubes or to hold spilled liquids, the container must be sufficiently liquid tight that it does not leave a trail of drips, or become moist or sticky to the touch of a person carrying the container.

25      **[005]**      The present inventor has found it disadvantageous to try to seal the container itself. Some types of insulating wall are sewn at their seams. Sewn seams have a tendency to leak at the stitches. Another approach is to fold the insulated blanket from which the container is made, to present an assembly that, through folding, has no seams. This is also disadvantageous,